

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

TOWN OF CHINCOTEAGUE

February 2, 2010 – 5:00 pm – Council Chambers – Town Hall

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

AGENDA ADOPTION:

1. Monthly Emergency Management Report – Bryan Rush
2. Tide Gage Information from the National Weather Service
3. Discuss Main Street Flooding at New Bridge
4. Presentation of ID badge pricing
5. Schedule Public Safety Forum for March 2010

ADJOURN:

TOWN OF CHINCOTEAGUE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MONTHLY REPORT

**Submitted by Bryan Rush
January 29, 2010**

PLANNING

REGIONAL POLITICAL SUPPORT

The Eastern Shore Disaster Coalition is in the process of inviting state congressional delegates from both Virginia and Maryland to the next coalition meeting in April. The move is to solicit regional support for the eastern areas of both Virginia and Maryland that seem to be left out of the grant funding process.

SHELTER ASSESSMENTS

The Accomack County Department of Emergency Management will be utilizing a Hampton Roads Emergency management Planning Grant to conduct three shelter assessments (Arcadia High and Middle, Accomack Elementary) in the next few months as well as assessments at three other locations (Eastern Shore Community College, Onancock Baptist Church, and Atlantic United Methodist Church) for potential shelters in extended sheltering operations.

CHARTER BOAT ASSOCIATION

Captain Gerry Ryan, President of the Chincoteague Charter Boat Association has furnished a contact list for the membership to be utilized for emergency contact to facilitate transportation of individuals and commodities before, during (emergency specific), and after a disaster.

TRAINING

NIMS

ICS 400 training will be held at the Parksley Volunteer Fire Department on March 22, 24, and 28th. Two evenings and one Sunday will be utilized for course instruction.

EMS

All EMS employees have received update training on the new Tidewater EMS Protocols, which will be in effect for the region February 1st 2010. A joint training was conducted to include members of the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company Rescue Squad.

EXERCISES

The Shore will not have any state sponsored exercises in 2010. The concentration for Region 5 will be on training of emergency managers and staffers. A week long academy will be held in early March.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS BRIEFINGS

The majority of Town employees have been briefed on the Town's Emergency Operations Plan. A copy of the plan has been placed in each department after briefing..

LOGISTICS

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The local health department currently has an abundance of H1N1 vaccines. They are currently distributing in conjunction with the rabies clinics being held throughout the shore. If a workplace has ten or more participants, the health department will do on-site vaccinations.

NOVEMBER NOR'EASTER

The weather service in Wakefield has sought information on the November 12th and 13th storm that impacted the area. They were interested in damage, water levels, and overall conditions compared to previous storms. This information will be use din the future to more accurately forecast conditions for the shore.

Bryan Rush

From: Bryan Rush [brush@chincoteague-va.gov]
Sent: Monday, December 07, 2009 3:49 PM
To: 'William Sammler (William.Sammler@noaa.gov)'
Cc: 'jtelec@verizon.net'; 'Robert Ritter'
Mr. Sammler,

The Town of Chincoteague Public Safety Committee had its bimonthly meeting December 1, 2009. The big topic of course was the November 09 Nor'easter.

Members voiced concerns over tide predictions.

As you know the nearest reporting tide gauge stations to Chincoteague are in Wachapreague, VA and Ocean City, MD. Extrapolating data from these two very different stations and incorporating it into predictions and observations for Chincoteague is very difficult as you are aware. The Wachapreague station even went off-line during this most recent event.

In order to have better predictions in the future; better serve the public; and limit potential loss to life and property; the Town of Chincoteague would like to request the addition of a tide gauge station within the Chincoteague area.

Please consider the additional valuable data this station could provide to the National Weather Service as well as the number of people it would impact in relation to population densities in the Chincoteague/Greenbackville/Wallops Island area.

Thank you and feel free to contact me with any further questions or data you may need to further this project request.

E. Bryan Rush, NREMT-P
Emergency Management Coordinator
EMS Supervisor
Town of Chincoteague, Inc.
6150 Community Drive
Chincoteague Island, VA 23336
757-336-3138 EMS Headquarters
757-336-6519 Ext. 226 Town Office
757-336-1965 FAX
brush@chincoteague-va.gov

Bryan Rush

From: Bill Sammler [William.Sammler@noaa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, December 09, 2009 11:36 AM
To: Accomack - Billie Jean Miles; Accomack - Jason Loftus; VA Beach - Mark Marchbank 2; James City - Kate Hale; Chesapeake - Chief Stephen Best; Chesapeake - Hui-Shan Walker; VDEM OPS - Harry Colestock; Chesapeake - Michelle Oblinsky; Chincoteague - Bryan Rush; VDEM Hurricane Program - Stewart Baker; Lancaster - Bill Pennell; Accomack - Sara Seaman; VA Beach - Steven Cover; Mathews Sheriff - Danny Howlett; West Point - Trent Funkhouser; VDEM OPS - Mike Nelson; VDEM Region V - Wallace Twigg; Norfolk - Ron Keys; Northampton VA - Hollye Carpenter; Northampton VA - Sandra Benson; Norfolk City - Jim Talbot; Mathews - Dave Burns; VDEM OPS - Vic Buisset; Mathews Co - Stephen Whiteway; VA Beach - Mark Marchbank; Isle of Wight - Riddle Hines; VA Beach - Jim Redick; VDEM Region V - Home; Lancaster - Scott Hudson; Newport News - Ken Jones; Franklin City - Vince Holt; Gloucester - Emily Ashley; Gloucester - Tim Doss; Hampton - Sara Ruch; Hampton - Tracy Hanger; HRPDC - Rich Flannery; Isle of Wight - Rusty Chase; James City - Bob Ryalls; James City - Tal Luton; Middlesex EM - Betty Muncy; Middlesex EM - Charles Culley; York County - Jim Dishner; York County - Chief Steve Kopczynski; York - Paul Long; Williamsburg - Burke Humphrey; Williamsburg - Pat Dent; Westmoreland - Norm Risavi; Westmoreland - Jeff Beasley; VA EOC e-mail; Twigg, Wallace; Suffolk EM - Jim Judkins; Southampton Sheriff - Vernie Francis; Southampton - Mike Johnson; Richmond County - William Duncanson; Portsmouth - Jeff Terwilliger; Poquoson - Bob Holloway; Northumberland - Luttrell Tadlock; Northumberland - Kenny Eades; VDEM HAZMAT - Ray Haring; VDEM HAZMAT - Richard Parker; Essex EM - Larry Smith; King William - Steve Puckett
Cc: Sonia Mark Flechtner; William Sammler
Subject: Possible Staff Gage Installations to Supplement Current Tide Gages

All,

We realize there are significant data voids when it comes to active tide gages in the Mid Atlantic region, both on the coast and in the Chesapeake Bay. While the chances of getting additional gages is very small, due both to the high initial and recurring costs, we are looking into the possibility of installing a series of "staff gages" to supplement the current tide gage network. Staff gages are basically large rulers, and as such, need to be manually monitored and observed.

Thus, installation locations would need to be monitored in person before, during, and after events. Obviously, this monitoring would need to be done by city/county staff, or some other entity (e.g. marina owner). We would provide the staff gage, as well as determine a baseline vertical datum from which estimates of tidal anomalies could be determined. What we would need from you would be an appropriate location(s), preferably one not prone to vandalism, to install the gage.

Since we are attempting to supplement the current network, we are initially targeting localities for which current tide gages either do not exist, or are potentially unrepresentative of conditions elsewhere in the city/county. In Accomack county, for example, a tide gage exists at Wachapreague, but none on the bayside even close to Accomack. Thus, a bayside location in Accomack county (e.g. Onancock) could be considered for this project. Since our funds are limited, we will not be able to satisfy all needs, but we can, I think, make things better than they are.

Please provide me, by January 1st, any locations for which you believe a staff gage would be useful. Please limit your locations to 2 per city/county.

Thanks for your assistance.

Bill S.

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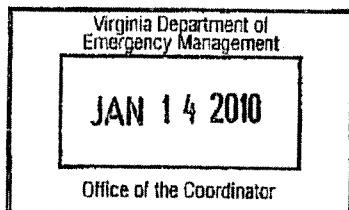
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Bill Sammler	(757) 899-5732 Voice
Warning Coordination Meteorologist	(757) 377-7765 Cell
NOAA's National Weather Service	(757) 899-3605 Fax
10009 General Mahone Hwy.	http://weather.gov/akq
Wakefield, VA 23888-2742	http://weather.gov/akq/empage.php

No virus found in this incoming message.

Checked by AVG - www.avg.com

Version: 9.0.725 / Virus Database: 270.14.128/2604 - Release Date: 01/06/10 14:35:00



Jan 13, 2010

Harry Deitch
4269 Main St.
Chincoteague, VA 23336
757-336-3364



Dec. 19, 2009 Chincoteague Bridge Intersection

To: Mayor and Town Council of Chincoteague
Commissioner, Virginia Department of Transportation
→ Director, Virginia Emergency Management/Planning

Subject: INADEQUATE ROAD GRADE AT FUTURE "EMERGENCY EVACUATION ROUTE" FOR
CHINCOTEAGUE ISLAND, VA

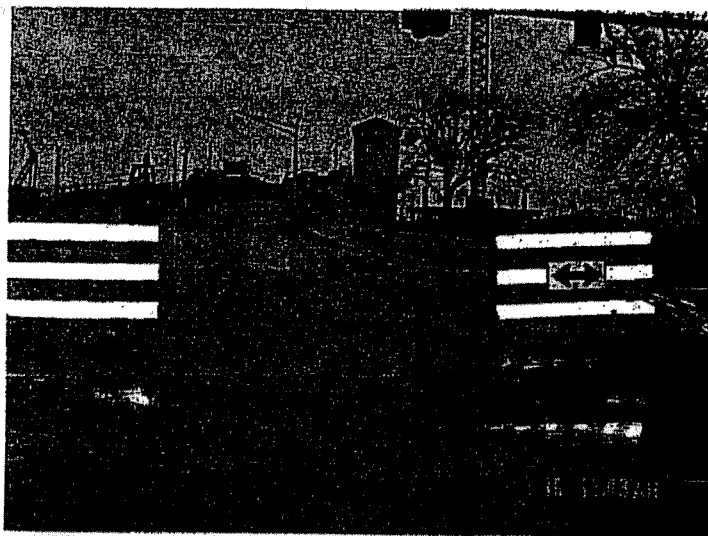
A critically dangerous situation will occur with the opening of the new bridge to Chincoteague due to a serious engineering oversight regarding the road elevation at the soon-to-be most critical intersection on the Island. Main Street at the Maddox Blvd. intersection is the "choke point" which will determine the response time-line, and ultimately, the life-or-death outcome for medical emergencies, as well as for critical evacuations in the case of hurricanes, severe Northeaster type flooding events, etc,

If not corrected, the situation pictured above, which involves salt-water flooding, will create a potentially disastrous result for emergency responders and residents who depend on a safe and reliable evacuation route. This picture, not as severe as the previous Northeaster only a few weeks earlier, shows water to a depth of approximately 12 inches at the traffic lights. Previously, the water was deeper, covering the total width of main street in front of my residence, two doors to the right of the picture above. In addition to flooding, rain, snow, and ice accumulation in this area will be difficult, if not impossible, to manage until the road grade is adequately elevated. The new drain system installed in conjunction with the new bridge has, if anything, enabled sea water to more rapidly rise in this area, accelerating the flooding process.

I am willing to share other photos of the main street area which may assist in addressing the full depth and breadth of this problem. I recorded photos of the existing drawbridge at approximately the same time, noting no flooding at the entrance/exit. I write this letter with an urgent request, in the public interest, that

this matter be given the highest priority for immediate correction in order to ensure the safety of all Island residents as we face the perils of living in a coastal flood zone with a predicable requirement for emergency vehicle access and a reliable emergency and all-purpose disaster evacuation route.

Sincerely yours
Harry Deitch
Harry Deitch





COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Emergency Management

MICHAEL M. CLINE
State Coordinator

BRETT A. BURDICK
Deputy Coordinator

10501 Trade Court
Richmond, Virginia 23236-3713
(804) 897-6500
(TDD) 874-2417
FAX (804) 897-6506

22 January 2010

Mr. Harry Deitch
4269 Main Street
Chincoteague, VA 23336

Dear Mr. Deitch:

Thank you for your letter of 13 January expressing your concerns over flooding impacts at the intersection of Main Street and Maddox Blvd. We take very seriously any notification we receive regarding potential impediments to either evacuations or provision of emergency services. On behalf of Michael Cline, state coordinator of emergency management, I offer the following reply to your concerns.

I contacted our hurricane program manager, Mr. Stewart Baker, who has extensive knowledge of the geography, road system and evacuation plans for your area and is our subject matter expert for flooding and evacuations. In regard to an evacuation, such as that from a hurricane, the flooded intersection should not pose a delay. This is because that area would be evacuated before the arrival of flood waters. There are several miles of low lying areas west of the bridge that may also flood during a hurricane. Fixing the flooding at that one intersection would not resolve the evacuation issues. What is critically important is that residents evacuate when an evacuation notice is given. Doing so would put them ahead of the flooded roadways.

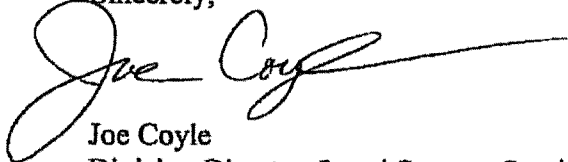
I also conferred with Mr. Baker on the provision of emergency services during non-hurricane flooding. I discussed with him two potential concerns based on your description and the pictures. The first concern was that the row of houses in your pictures would become completely isolated when there is localized flooding. I was relieved to find that this would not be the case, because there is an alternate means of ingress / egress by a back road. The second concern was that localized flooding at that intersection would prevent people from getting across to the bridge and off of the island. Mr. Baker reported that the local fire department has the capability, using certain vehicles, to ford that intersection during localized flooding and in the past has made provisions for doing that.

"Working to Protect People, Property and Our Communities"

As the state's emergency management agency, we work in support of, and in close partnership with, local emergency management officials. I am copying this reply to Mr. Bryan Rush, the local emergency management coordinator for Chincoteague. He would be a good source of information for you regarding local plans.

Again, thank you for taking time to express your concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Coyle", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joe Coyle
Division Director, Local Support Services

C: Michael Cline, State Coordinator
Bryan Rush, Chincoteague Emergency Management Coordinator
Wallace Twigg, VDEM Regional Coordinator
Stewart Baker, VDEM Hurricane Program Manager

"Working to Protect People, Property and Our Communities"

Mark Your Calendar!

Ready irginia

2010 PREPAREDNESS CAMPAIGNS

Throughout the year Ready Virginia emphasizes the importance of emergency preparedness through seasonal public outreach campaigns. Partners in the Ready Virginia emergency preparedness effort – including the National Weather Service – will follow these dates for consistency and stronger messaging to citizens. Watch for more information!

January 2010

Resolve to be Ready New Year's Campaign

March 16, 2010

Tornado Preparedness Day (statewide drill at 9:45 a.m.)

May 23-29, 2010

National Hurricane Preparedness Week

May 25-31, 2010

Virginia's Hurricane Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday

September 2010

National Preparedness Month

October 2010

Fire Prevention Month

December 5-11, 2010

Winter Preparedness Week

If you have questions or need additional resources, write or call Laura Southard at the Virginia Department of Emergency Management: laura.southard@vdem.virginia.gov or (804) 897-6510. Please feel free to link to and reference www.ReadyVirginia.gov.